

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
LICENSE OF

DEBRA L. LANE, R.N.  
License # 26NO07168200

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

**FINAL ORDER  
OF DISCIPLINE**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("the Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Debra L. Lane (Respondent) is a Registered Professional Nurse (RN) in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
2. On or about May 1, 2014, a letter of inquiry issued on behalf of the Board, asking Respondent, inter alia, to provide documentation concerning continuing education courses completed during the June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012 renewal period.
3. Respondent indicated that she had completed required continuing education for the 2010-2012 renewal period, and that subsequently she would provide such documentation. Respondent subsequently provided that she may have paid for certain courses (in 2014), but provided a certificate of completion for only 22.5 contact

hours of continuing education completed on June 20, 2013, within the June 1, 2012 – May 31, 2014 renewal period.

4. On respondent's 2012 renewal application, respondent indicated that she would complete all required continuing education for the June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2012 licensing cycle by May 31, 2012.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Respondent's failure to provide documentation of completion of continuing education for the June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2012 licensing cycle is interpreted as a failure to timely complete required continuing education in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, subjecting respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's indication on her renewal application that she would complete all required continuing education by May 31, 2012, followed by her failure to provide documentation of the required continuing education, is interpreted as misrepresentation in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

### **DISCUSSION**

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline seeking a suspension, reprimand, and two hundred and fifty dollar (\$250) civil penalty was entered on August 15, 2014. Copies were served upon Respondent via regular and certified mail. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day following entry unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated findings of fact and conclusions of law by setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence

supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent timely responded to the Provisional Order of Discipline by providing proof of completion of 52.5 hours completed within the June 1, 2012 – May 31, 2014 renewal period and 45 hours completed within the current renewal period of June 1, 2014 – May 31, 2016. While Respondent maintained that she completed the required continuing education during the June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2012 renewal period, she acknowledged that she could not produce documentation of such and that she was unable to obtain duplicate certificates from the provider. Respondent can apply the extra hours from the 2012 – 2014 and 2014 -2106 renewal cycles to cure the deficiency of her 2010 – 2012 renewal period. Additionally, Respondent submitted payment of two hundred and fifty dollars for the proposed civil penalty.

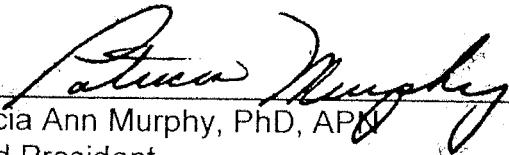
The Board reviewed Respondent's submissions and determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that no material discrepancies had been raised. The Board was not persuaded that the submitted materials merited further consideration. Inasmuch as Respondent cured the deficiency of her 2010 – 2012 renewal period, the Board determined that suspension was no longer warranted. However, the Board determined that Respondent's failure to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, timely completion of continuing education within the June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2012 renewal period warranted imposition of the two hundred fifty dollar civil penalty. Similarly, the Board determined that a reprimand for Respondent's corresponding false answer on her renewal was warranted.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014,  
ORDERED that:

1. A public reprimand is hereby imposed upon Respondent for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

2. A civil penalty in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) is hereby imposed for the violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3. The Board acknowledges receipt of Respondent's premature payment and will process same at this time.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:   
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APRN  
Board President